

TO THE HOUSE FWP COMMITTEE:

RE: HB 418-AN ACT REVISING THE RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENSES AND PERMITS THAT MAY BE ISSUED TO NONRESIDENTS

POSITION: the JW Westman family hereby goes on record **ADAMANTLY OPPOSING** this bill based on the following reasons:

- In 2012, under the current 10% allocation to nonresidents, plus the other programs available to nonresidents, Montana issued 17,675 non resident elk tags and 24,215 deer tags. Of the Western states, only Colorado issued more non-resident elk tags and only Wyoming issued more non-resident deer tags. ~~See attached sheet.~~
- Only Montana offers the non-resident hunter who draws a tag, the opportunity to hunt for 11 weeks, assuming they both archery and rifle hunt. Most states only provide a 5-10 day opportunity.
- With regards to non-resident archery tags in the "Breaks" and 21 adjacent units, non-residents in 2012 had a 32% chance of drawing a tag in the "Breaks" and a 55% chance of drawing in the adjacent units. ~~See attached sheet.~~
- If the rationale is used that the additional tags are needed because elk populations are over objectives then the proper tool to reduce populations is to increase cow harvest, not bull harvest, and with rifles.
- The current allocation of up to 10% of the tags/permits to non-resident is fair and Montana provides an excellent opportunity for non-resident hunters.

Once again we would like to state our **ADAMANT OPPOSITION** for HB 418

JW, Lori, Megan & Dakota Westman
Park City, MT

